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7.7/15/87

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March 11, 1987

Dr. Sheldon Sommers, MD
The Council for Tobacco Research:
USA, Inc.
900 3rd Avenue
NEW YORK, NY 10022

Dear Sir:

I am an immunologist working in the field of immune regulation, especially as applied to T lymphocytes. Our work, at the University of Alberta, has focussed on a unique finding. That is, we have found that helper T cells, which normally promote immune responses, can under certain conditions release antigen-specific molecules which induce down-regulation of immunity. Our systems rely on the use of helper T cell clones and hybridomas and we have adapted these systems to a detailed analysis of each phase of this phenomenon.

The studies we have embarked upon have the disadvantage that they move somewhat against a current dogma in immunology - that T cells bear receptors which cannot directly "see" antigen. Although evidence is quickly mounting from many laboratories worldwide that this dogma is incorrect, the inertia of funding agencies has rendered my work difficult to accept. Repeatedly, the difficulty has been theoretical (ie. the anti-dogmatic nature of our findings) rather than scientific (ie. the validity of our results).

I understand that your foundation favors the careful investigator whose work, due to its unorthodoxy, may result in important new concepts. We and our collaborators believe that our work will shed new light on the fundamental mechanisms by which the immune system "decides" whether or not to respond to a foreign substance. It, therefore, has relevance to the mechanisms of tolerance, antigen presentation to T cells, and diseases in which inappropriate immune responses (either positive or negative) occur.

Therefore, would you please provide me with applications for operating funds and any information regarding the application.

Thank you.

DR Green

Douglas R. Green, Ph.D.
Associate Professor